

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 26-28 are currently being added

Claims 23-25 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 12-14 and 16-21 are currently being amended.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 26-28 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 23-25. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 23 (but not intervening claim 7), whereby claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the comments made in the Office Action with respect to claim 23. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 12 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 24, whereby claim 12 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the comments made in the Office Action with respect to claim 24. Lastly, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 21 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 25, whereby claim 21 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the comments made in the Office Action with respect to claim 25. All of the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, independent claim 12 or independent claim 21, and thus those claims are also now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7, 9-123 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,742,141 to Miller in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,143,194 to Curley; and claims 2, 4, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Curley and further in view of Null (Null, Linda, "The Essentials of Computer Organization and Architecture"). Due to the amendments made to independent claims 1, 12 and 21 so that they now include features of "objected to" claims 23, 24 and 25, respectively, these rejections are now believed to be moot.

New Claims:

New claims 26-28 have been added to recite features described in paragraph 0068 of the specification, which provides an additional basis of patentability for those claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Phillip J. Articola

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Customer No.: 22879
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis
Registration No. 26,874

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819